

BRFSS Brief

Number 0907

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is an annual statewide telephone survey of adults developed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and administered by the New York State Department of Health. The BRFSS is designed to provide information on behaviors, risk factors, and utilization of preventive services related to the leading causes of chronic and infectious diseases, disability, injury, and death among the noninstitutionalized, civilian population aged 18 years and older.

Arthritis

New York State Adults 2007

Introduction

Arthritis encompasses over 120 diseases and conditions that affect joints, the surrounding tissues, and other connective tissues. The most common types of arthritis are osteoarthritis, gout, rheumatoid arthritis, and fibromyalgia. Common symptoms include pain, aching, stiffness, and swelling in or around the joints. Some forms of arthritis, such as rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, can affect multiple organs and cause widespread symptoms. Arthritis is the leading cause of disability in the United States.¹

An estimated 46 million U.S. adults (about 1 in 5) report doctor-diagnosed arthritis and 19 million report arthritis-attributed activity limitations.² Although arthritis affects children and people of all racial and ethnic groups, it is more common among women and older adults. Of the approximately 3.7 million adults in New York State living with arthritis, 1.4 million are aged 65 years and older. As the population ages, the number of people with arthritis is expected to increase dramatically.

BRFSS Questions

1. During the past 30 days, have you had symptoms of pain, aching, or stiffness in or around a joint?

[If "yes"]

2. Did your joint symptoms first begin more than 3 months ago?

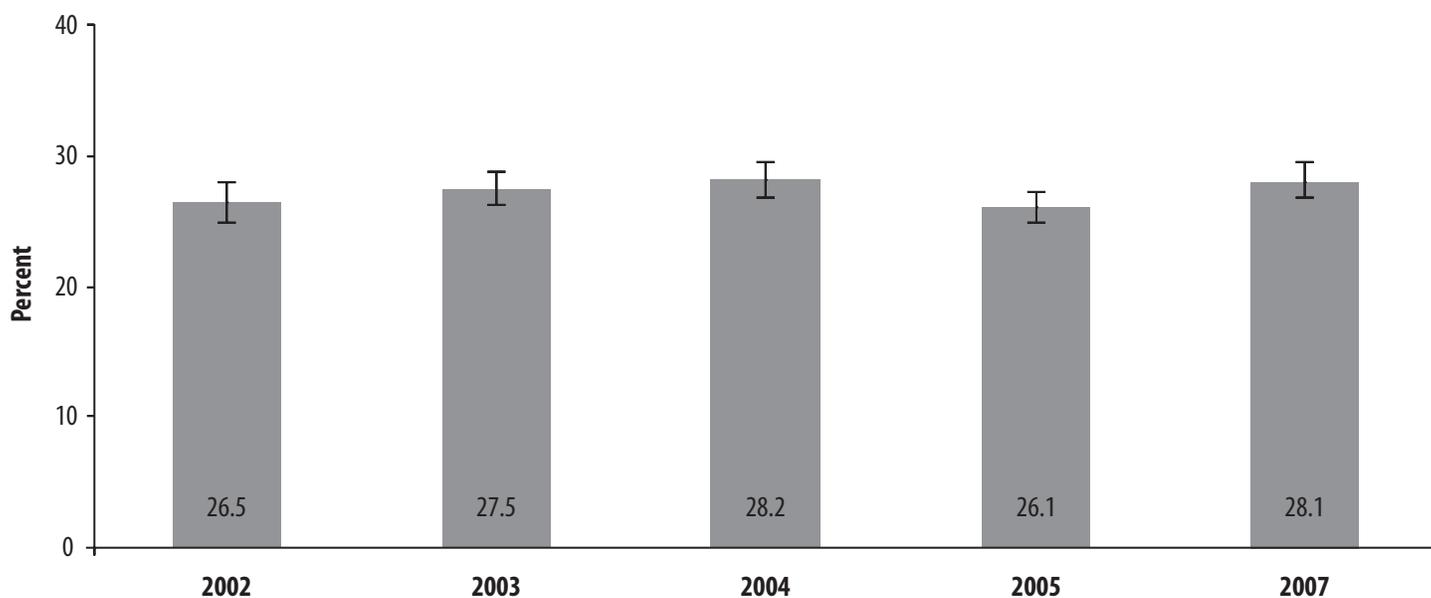
3. Have you ever been told by a doctor or other health professional that you have some form of arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, lupus, or fibromyalgia?

[If "yes" to #2 or #3]

4. Are you now limited in any way in any of your usual activities because of arthritis or joint symptoms?

For current surveillance purposes, arthritis is defined as being "doctor-diagnosed," i.e., a "yes" response to question #3.

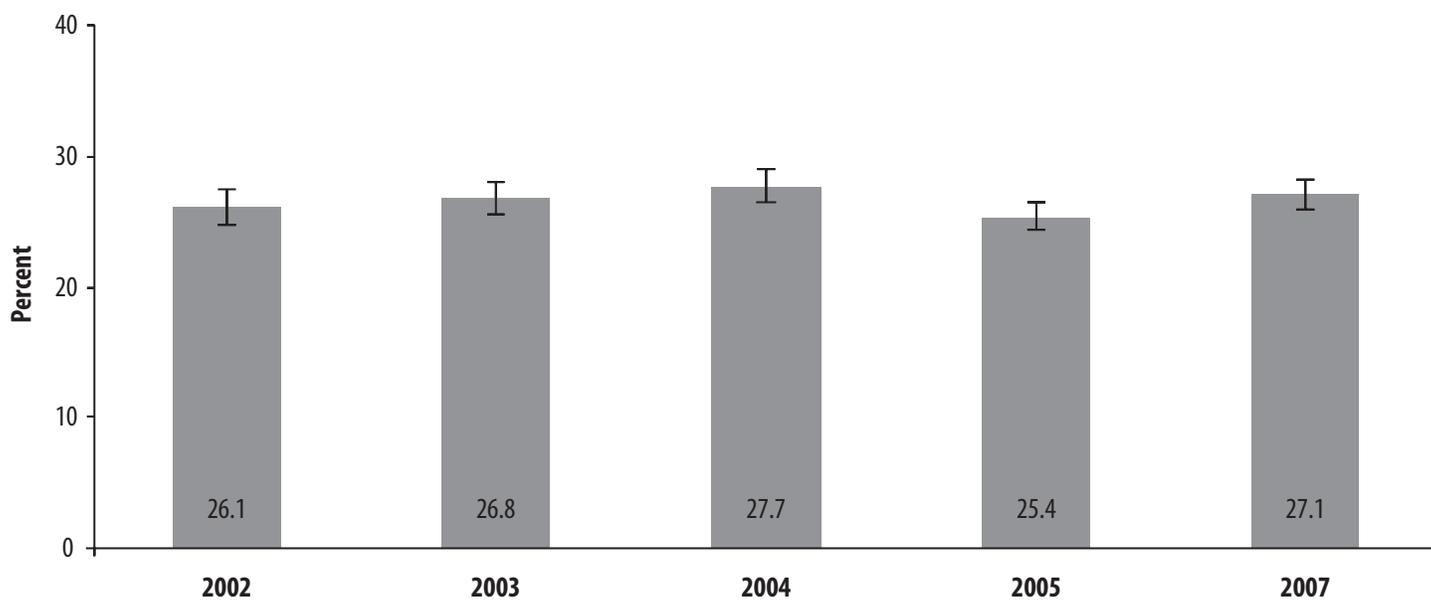
Crude prevalence of arthritis^a among New York State adults, by year



Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

^a Those ever told by a doctor or other health professional that had some form of arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, lupus, or fibromyalgia.

Age-adjusted^a prevalence of arthritis^b among New York State adults, by year



Note: Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

^a Age-adjusted to US 2000 population.

^b Those ever told by a doctor or other health professional that had some form of arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, lupus, or fibromyalgia.

Prevalence of arthritis and associated activity limitation among New York State adults: 2007 BRFSS

	Arthritis ^a		If arthritis, % with activity limitation due to arthritis or joint symptoms ^b	
	% ^c	95% CI ^c	%	95% CI
New York State (NYS) [n=6,355]	28.1	26.8-29.4	32.4	30.4-34.6
Sex				
Male	23.3	21.3-25.4	28.9	25.5-32.5
Female	32.4	30.7-34.2	35.1	32.6-37.7
Age (years)				
18-24	5.1	2.8-9.2	21.4	11.5-36.4
25-34	9.0	6.7-11.9	27.3	19.5-36.8
35-44	15.2	12.8-18.0	25.4	20.0-31.7
45-54	33.9	31.0-37.0	29.3	25.3-33.5
55-64	46.1	42.8-49.6	38.4	34.2-42.8
≥ 65	57.2	54.4-60.0	38.4	35.2-41.7
Race/ethnicity				
White non-Hispanic	31.3	29.8-32.8	31.7	29.6-33.9
Black non-Hispanic	23.8	19.8-28.3	37.0	29.3-45.4
Hispanic	20.5	16.9-24.6	32.6	25.6-40.4
Other non-Hispanic	23.6	18.7-29.4	30.8	22.8-40.2
Annual household income				
< \$15,000	33.5	28.3-39.2	50.0	42.6-57.4
\$15,000-\$24,999	32.9	29.0-37.1	38.8	33.2-44.7
\$25,000-\$34,999	30.8	26.6-35.3	35.5	29.2-42.2
\$35,000-\$49,999	30.0	26.2-34.1	30.6	25.1-36.6
\$50,000-\$74,999	25.1	22.0-28.5	26.6	21.0-31.9
≥ \$75,000	23.1	20.9-25.5	23.5	19.9-27.6
Missing ^d	29.5	25.8-33.6	34.8	29.1-40.9
Educational attainment				
Less than high school	26.1	21.8-30.9	44.6	37.0-52.5
High school or GED	33.8	31.1-36.6	34.8	31.1-36.6
Some post-high school	30.7	27.9-33.7	32.3	28.4-36.5
College graduate	22.9	21.1-24.8	26.2	23.1-29.6
Disability^e				
Yes	58.5	55.2-61.7	66.7	63.2-70.1
No	20.7	19.4-22.1	13.9	11.9-16.1
Residence				
New York City (NYC)	23.4	21.0-25.9	32.7	28.5-37.1
NYS exclusive of NYC	30.4	28.9-32.0	32.3	30.0-34.7

^a Those ever told by a doctor or other health professional that had some form of arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, lupus, or fibromyalgia.

^b If ever told by a doctor or other health professional that had some form of arthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, gout, lupus, or fibromyalgia.

^c % =Percentage; 95% CI =Confidence interval (at the 95 percent probability level). Percentages are weighted to population characteristics.

^d "Missing" category included because more than 10% of the sample did not report income.

^e All respondents who report activity limitations due to physical, mental, or emotional problems OR have health problems that require the use of special equipment.

References

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Prevalence of disabilities and associated health conditions--United States, 1999. *MMWR* 2001; 50:120-125.
2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Prevalence of doctor-diagnosed arthritis and arthritis-attributable activity limitation--United States, 2003-2005. *MMWR* 2006; 55:1089-1092.

Order Information

Copies may be obtained by contacting:

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